

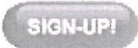
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Yonkers Green Trade Show starts Tomorrow-Saturday News From Chuck Lesnick

May 1, 2008

Tomorrow is Around the Corner

Sign Up

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Quick Links

Tomorrow is Around the Corner

Yonkers Green Policy Task Force will host its first Green Conference and Trade Fair at the Riverfront Library in downtown Yonkers on Friday and Saturday, on May 2 and 3, 2008.

Designed for builders, municipal leaders, conservation organizations, students and the public, the conference will feature guest speakers on topics ranging from strategies for effectively greening our communities to workshops on the practical and most effective ways to locate funding for environmental initiatives. The event is free of charge.

The agenda is as follows: **Friday, May 2**

8:30 - 9:00 Registration

9:00 - 9:15 Introduction Mayor Philip Amicone, and City Council President, Chuck Lesnick and Salvatore Lagon President, Westchester County Bar Association to introduce Keynote Speaker.

9:15 - 11:00 Keynote Address Kit Kennedy, Special Deputy Attorney General for Environmental Protection, New York State.

11:15 - 1:00 Strategies for Effectively Greening our Communities.

1. Global Warming Perspectives for the New York Area - Kristen Marcell, Special Projects Coordinator, New York State Dept. of Environmental Conservation, Hudson River Estuary Program.

2. Blueprint for Sustainability - Green Architecture and Design Works for New York - Russell Unger, Executive Director, NY Chapter, U.S. Green Building Council, New York Chapter.

3. Successful Energy Alternatives and NY State Incentives - Charle-Pan Dawson, Project Manager, New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA).

4. Where's the Money to Go Green? Systems that Work Now. Stanley Fishbein, President, Capquest Michael Scorrano, VP, Pareto Energy.

5. Local Change Impacts the World - Melissa Stults, Regional Program Director, ICLEI.

6. Environmental Laws Sustain Our Progress - Tara Fappiano, Co-Chair, Environmental Committee, Westchester County Bar Association.

1:00 - 2:00 Lunch: local restaurants

BREAK OUT SESSIONS (Two Running Simultaneously)

2:00 - 5:00 Environmental Policy and Law Review - CLE credit Program, prepared by American Land Services and monitored by Tara Fappiano, Co-chair for the Environmental Law Committee of the Westchester County Bar Association. Attendance and Materials are provided free. This program is repeated on Saturday for those who cannot attend on Friday.

2:00 - 5:00 NYSERDA Grant Workshop - Learn how to successfully apply for financing you need to go green. For municipalities, businesses, organizations, homeowners. Step-by-step guidance with experts.

5:30 - 7:00 FILM AN INCONVENIENT TRUTH - Academy Award Winning film on the environmental challenges we face today.

SATURDAY, MAY 3

11:00 - 12:45 Preserving Historic Buildings the Green Way Stephen Tilly, Architect. Homeowners may learn methods to upgrade their older homes for energy efficiency while preserving historic charm and value.

12:45 - 1:30 Lunch - local restaurants.

BREAK OUT SESSIONS Two running simultaneously.

1:30 to 4:30 Environmental Policy and Law Review - CLE credit Program, prepared by American Land Services and monitored by Tara Fappiano, Co-Chair for the Environmental Law Committee for the Westchester County Bar Association. Attendance and Materials are provided free.

1:30 to 4:30 What Contractors Need To Know To Go Green: Learn from the experts about "green" standards,

technologies, resources, and Certification Training programs. Contractors may increase their earning opportunities. Representation from Building Certification organizations and companies will be present to answer contractors questions, and give guidance. Workshops for certification will be scheduled for attendees.

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Panel Discussions

News From Chuck Lesnick

May 1, 2008

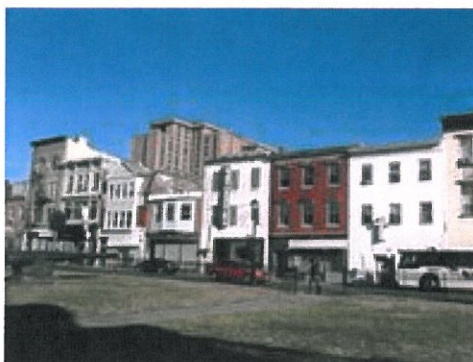
Join Me in NYC Thursday
YBW Panel Discussion
Thursday
Gates of Hope
Mother's Day is Sunday

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Join Me in NYC Thursday



With the recent Council vote to landmark [Philipse Manor Historic District](#) while at the same time working toward allowing the [Greyston Foundation](#) to build workforce housing on the site that

they own, it was appropriate that the [NYS Association of Affordable Housing](#) invited me to join a panel on Strengthening Communities: A Focus on Historic Preservation and Affordable Housing from 3:15-4:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 8, at the Marriott Marquis Hotel, 1535 Broadway in New York City.

This is part of a full-day conference which will be attended by Governor David A. Paterson, NYS DHCR Commissioner Deborah VanAmerongen, NYS HFA/SONYMA President and CEO Priscilla Almodovar, NYC HPD Commissioner Shaun Donovan, NYC Housing Development Corporation President Marc Jahr and close to 1,200 others.

The panel will explore the challenges and opportunities associated with the rehabilitation of historic properties for affordable housing. We will showcase successful projects, explore the financial incentives available, and discuss other tools that encourage the development of affordable housing as part of historic renovations and strengthening communities.

Moderator: Lorrie Pizzola, Deputy Commissioner, NYS DHCR.
Panelists: Hon. Chuck Lesnick, President, Yonkers City Council President; Richard Libbey, Atlantic Beach Associates

& PKRML and Associates; Ruth Pierpont, Director of the Field Services Bureau, NYS Office of Parks Recreation and Historic Preservation.

If anyone would like to attend, please call 718- 432- 2100.

YBW Panel Discussion Thursday



Fishbein, President, CapQuest Group, LLC.

In conjunction with [Yonkers Business Week](#), I was asked to give the introduction to "Saving Energy is Smart Money for Everyone" tomorrow, Thursday, May 8 from 8-10 a.m. at Ristorante Spiritoso on 811 McLean Ave.

Please come and enjoy breakfast with representatives from the [New York Power Authority](#) who will discuss achieving New York's '15 by '15 plan to cut energy use by 15 percent by 2015, as well as the [New York State Energy Research and Development Authority](#) to learn about energy-smart ideas and energy loan programs, among other topics.

Panelists include Patrice Courtney Strong, Coordinator, Mid-Hudson Energy Smart/NYSERDA; David D. Meade, Business Economic Development Project Manager, Anchin Block & Anchin's Business Economic Development Services Group; and Stanley S.

Speakers include Angelo S. Esposito, Senior Vice President Energy Services & Technology, New York Power Authority; and Richard Rathvon, Vice President, Reliant Energy.

Having just hosted Yonkers first [Green Week](#), a free city-wide event offering educational opportunities to residents about preserving and sustaining our natural environment, I am excited about this opportunity. Here in Yonkers and across the country, we see "green business" as good business in terms of recycling, energy efficiency and conservation.

By creating and applying such smart growth and sustainable development plans into our existing buildings and residences, in addition to all the proposed development in Yonkers, we hope to see higher returns, both financially and environmentally.

To that end, the City Council is setting standards for green development throughout the city, including Energy Star code changes and other exciting initiatives.

Gates of Hope

Yonkers Business Week was very well- attended this year, bringing a tremendous amount of enthusiasm to the City.

While I attended most every event, I have to say the highlight for me was riding in the NY Water Taxi from Yonkers to lower Manhattan and back with a group of business leaders including Providence, Rhode Island Mayor David Cicilline and Bill Struever from Struever, Fidelco, Cappelli.

As we passed the abandoned Glenwood Power Station a conversation about adaptive re-use of the building ensued, with Bill expressing enthusiasm for this magical place.

Later, he repeated these comments on News 12 who had been running a story about the recent gang activity at the so- called "Gates of Hell."

Bill joins a list of four or five developers who have expressed interested in purchasing and reusing the building, making it less likely that the City would ever consider demolishing the site, as was proposed in the preliminary generic draft environmental impact statement for the Alexander St. corridor.

There will be a meeting on Wednesday, May 14 of the Community Services Committee at 5:30 pm to discuss recent security measures requested of the current owner of the Glenwood Power Station and his plan for the future.

Mother's Day is Sunday



Mother's Day celebrates motherhood and the positive contributions of women to society. It falls on the second Sunday of each May.

The holiday was started by Anna Marie Jarvis (1864-1948), who, following the death of her mother on May 9, 1905, devoted her life to establishing Mother's Day as a national, and later an international, holiday.

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Public Participation High on SFC Project

News From Chuck Lesnick

May 16, 2008

Landmarking Paving the Road
Toward the Future
Blige to Benefit Yonkers
Westhab Wins Award
Council Grills Departments for
Budget Savings
Chuck Continues as
Westchester Municipal Officials
Officer
Save the Date
Everyone Loves a Parade
Yonkers Open Artists Studio
Tour This Weekend
Putting Pedal to the Metal

Sign Up

SIGN-UP!

Quick Links



The hearing concluded the second of two public hearings on the \$1.6 billion [SFC](#) proposal to develop Downtown Yonkers.

Of the 150 who spoke, most seemed in favor of the project although people still voiced concern regarding the density, height, amount of open space, preservation of historic buildings, sequencing of the daylighting, financing, jobs, tax revenues, affordable housing, and community benefits.

The public comment period remains open until May 30. Please direct all correspondence to Rocky Richard, Chief of Staff, Office of the Council President, 40 S. Broadway, Room 403, Yonkers, NY 10701 or by emailing her at rocky.richard@yonkersNY.gov. Fax: 914-964-1949.

While our planning consultants will work with SFC's to address all of the issues raised, the Council will also meet to meet to focus on some of the substantive concerns.

At 7 p.m. on Tuesday, May 20 the Real Estate Committee will address the issue of how much affordable housing should be

required and will also look at the reestablishing and refining the City's overall affordable housing ordinance. This may prove to be one of the most important meetings we have on this topic so I encourage you to come.

Landmarking Paving the Road Toward the Future



Jung Chin)

The City is receiving a lot of positive attention after the Council voted to landmark a small block of 19th century structures across the street from the historic [Philipse Manor Hall](#) last month.

The vote came after a group of Yonkers citizens banded together to present a historical integrity argument to the Council at the same time that the [Greyston Foundation](#) was making their argument to build workforce housing on the site.

The compromise--to do both--is an excellent example of communities working together to build toward the future while preserving the past.

With that, the NYS Association of Affordable Housing invited me to join a panel discussion in the city last week, "Strengthening Communities: A Focus on Historic Preservation and Affordable Housing."

Almost 1300 people attended. The moderator was Lorrie Pizzola, Deputy Commissioner, NYS DHCR. Panelists: Hon. Chuck Lesnick, President, Yonkers City Council President; Richard Libbey, Atlantic Beach Associates & PKRML and Associates; Ruth Pierpont, Director of the Field Services Bureau, NYS Office of Parks Recreation and Historic Preservation.

Also in esteemed attendance were NYS DHCR Commissioner Deborah VanAmerongen, NYS HFA/SONYMA President and CEO Priscilla Almodovar, NYC HPD Commissioner Shaun Donovan, and NYC Housing Development Corporation President Marc Jahr.

The panel explored the challenges and opportunities associated with the rehabilitation of historic properties for affordable housing. We talked about successful projects, explored the financial incentives available, and discussed other tools that encourage the development of affordable housing as part of historic renovations and strengthening communities.

One panelist, Richard Libby, just completed the first mixed use LEED certified historic tax credit affordable housing project in the country. it is in Trenton, NJ.

Blige to Benefit Yonkers



The singer [Mary J. Blige](#) visited Yonkers Roosevelt High School last week to announce an empowerment and self-esteem program for young women.

The Mary J. Blige and Steve Stoute Foundation for the Advancement of Women Now Inc., or FFAWN, will partner with [Westchester Jewish Community Services](#) to open a social services center in southwest Yonkers that will target those who need help with parenting skills, education, vocational training or setting and achieving goals.

Blige explained to the audience that she dropped out of Yonkers' Roosevelt High School in the 11th grade. She asked them not to repeat her mistakes.

"Please get your education," she urged the students. "Education is key. Education is power."

Blige pledged to raise \$500,000 for the foundation and to allocate a portion of that money to the Yonkers center.

Westhab Wins Award



It was a pleasure to celebrate with [Westhab](#) last week when they won the [New York State Association for Affordable Housing's](#) (NYSFAH) Downstate Project of the Year Award.

Westhab's project, located at 28 Pier St., was touted for its innovative 12-unit design for transitional veteran's housing. Westhab works with homeless and low-income families beyond the provision of good housing by providing such important supportive

services as on- site case management; employment and training programs; community models and training; life-skills training; day care; children and youth development services; transportation; and linkages for mental health, substance abuse, and education services.

(photo credit: Jung Chin)

Council Grills Departments for Budget Savings

The Mayor's proposal to all but deplete the City's fund balance is a cause of major concern to the Council. This year, more than ever, we are scrutinizing each department's expenditures, in hopes of cutting back to save money without compromising the City's integrity.



While the administration has offered short- term solutions to keep the proposed tax increase at only 8.5 percent, it is not enough.

I believe that we must not reduce our reserves (emergency savings, if you will) in light of the uncertain economic times and the grim prospects for state next year.

Your opinion and ideas matter. There are two public hearings to this affect that I urge people to attend. You can sign up to speak after 6:30 p.m. that day, in person.

Tuesday, May 27 at 7 p.m. in Council Chambers

Thursday, May 29 at 7 p.m. at Saunders High School

Chuck Continues as Westchester Municipal Officials Officer



After serving as Treasurer for the Westchester Municipal Officials Association (WMOA), I was recently appointed Secretary of the 70 year-old group which provides a forum for 45 cities, towns and villages in Westchester.

The association plans activities and takes actions on issues that have a beneficial affect upon public safety, health and welfare of its members citizenry.

(from left) Sam Abate former mayor of Ardsley and former WMOA President; Pelham Supervisor and current WMOA President Joe Solimine; Bedford Supervisor Lee Roberts and 1st VP; North Castle Supervisor Reese Berman and 2nd VP; Chuck Lesnick; and (not shown) Drew Fixell, Mayor of Tarrytown as Treasurer.

For more information, please call 914-948-2074 and ask for Executive Director, Anne Janniak.

Save the Date

The Yonkers [YWCA](#) is holding its 16th annual Celebrity Chefs benefit from 2-7 p.m. on Sunday, June 8 at the Ukranian Youth Center on 301 Palisade Ave. to honor the 2008 YWCA Men of the Year: Businessman Peter Klein of [SFC](#) and Educator Darryl J. Mack of [Roos evelt](#)

High School.

Hosts include Peter X. Kelly, [X2O Xaviars on the Hudson](#) and Robert Leggio, [Zuppa Restaurant](#).

Bring your friends, family and neighbors to enjoy great food, music and entertainment at the international all you can eat buffet featuring Italian, American, Soul, Asian, Hispanic, and Caribbean dishes.

Ticket Prices are \$15 Children 12 and under; \$30 Senior Citizens; \$40 Adults purchased prior to 4/30/08. \$50 for tickets purchased 5/1/08 thru 6/8/08.

Contact the [YWCA](#) at 914- 963-0640 for more information.

Everyone Loves a Parade

This year's Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony will be held on Sunday, May 18th.

The ceremony will take place in front of the City Hall at the Veterans Memorial at 11:00 A.M. and the parade starts at 2:00 P.M. at South Broadway and Radford Street.



Questions? Please contact The Department of Veteran Services at (914) 377-6700.

Yonkers Open Artists Studio Tour This Weekend

Come and experience what's going on artistically in Yonkers this weekend from Noon to 5 p.m. at the [YoHo Artist Lofts](#) and have an opportunity to see and interact directly with the artists.

Various disciplines will be on display including Paintings, Works on Paper, Sculptures, Multimedia, Pastels, Photography, Jewelry, Assemblage and more.

For more event information, map, driving directions, or to see the artists and their works online, visit:
<http://www.YOHOartists.com>

Location: 578 Nepperhan Avenue, 5th Floor (at corner of Lake Ave.) at the Alexander Smith Carpet Mills Buildings (enter from rear parking lot - entrance on Lake Ave.)

Date: Sat/Sun May 17 - 18. Noon to 5 PM Open to Public. Tel: (212) 317- 1423 ext YOH (964)

Photo above: Artist Elizabeth DeBethune's recent work on paper.

Putting Pedal to the Metal

Want to
save money on gas? Get a free gym membership? How about save the environment?

Karin Weisburgh did. The senior research analyst at Consumers Union in Yonkers is enjoying these and other benefits since deciding to ride her bike rather than drive her car to work. She now commutes 10 miles per day each way year round.

Her efforts were rewarded today with a "Commuter of the Year" award from the Westchester Cycle Club, a 1,200-member nonprofit bike recreation and advocacy group at a press conference also announcing a second place winner and five honorable mentions.

Congrats Karin! Keep pedaling!

Pictured above: Chuck Lesnick; David Wilson, president of the Westchester Cycle Club; Karin Weisburgh; George Constantin, president of Heritage Realty Services who gave Karin a \$100 check and who promote cycle commuting at their office park; and Dennis Power, who coordinates Westchester County's Global Warming Task Force.

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Yonkers Relay For Life June 6

May 29, 2008

Please Donate to Help Find a
Cure for Cancer
Haircuts Donated
Homefield Bowl

Sign Up

SIGN-UP!

Quick Links

Quick Link 1
Quick Link 2
Quick Link 3
Quick Link 4

Please Donate to Help Find a Cure for Cancer



Please join me and the "City Hall for a Cure" team in this year's Relay for Life fundraising event. By simply clicking [here](#), your donation will help make a difference in someone's life. You may also buy a luminarie (white candle bag bearing your message) for \$10.

The American Cancer Society's Relay For Life of Yonkers is an overnight camp out organized by a volunteer committee to raise money for a cure.

In Yonkers, it is being held at Gorton High School on Friday, June 6th from 3 p.m. until 7 a.m. on June 7th to honor cancer survivors, pay tribute to the lives lost to the disease, and raise money to help fight the disease.

The City Council has named its long-time counsel, the late Harvey Kaminsky, as its honorary captain of the team after recently losing his fight against prostrate cancer.

Different teams raise money in different ways. Our team will hold bake sales at City Hall from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Friday May 30 and Friday June 6 to raise money, in addition to asking for individual donations such as this. And we will sell luminaries for \$10 each.

To see all the Yonkers teams, click [here](#).

Everyone is welcome to come and join in the fun at Gorton High School, 100 Shonnard Place, including live music, great food, games, contests, a dunking booth, and a jail and bail.

Please help support this wonderful event for a very good cause.

All the best to you and your families.

Sincerely,

Chuck

Haircuts Donated

Come to Hair Dimension, 471 Tuckahoe Rd. in the Staples Plaza, on June 2 from 1-6 p.m. to get your hair cut for a discounted rate of \$25.

The salon is donating all proceeds to Relay For Life for the second year on a row. Last year, they raised almost \$6,000! Please join me at Hair Dimension for my first haircut since St. Baldericks Day.

For more information, please call them at 914-779- 5919.

Homefield Bowl

Love to bowl under disco lights, eat, drink, and have a good time? Go to Homefield Bowl in Yonkers on Saturday, May 31st at 7 p.m. for a \$30 fundraiser to benefit Relay For Life. 938 Saw Mill River Road, (914) 969- 5592.

email: clesnick@aol.com

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Third Time's a Charm

News From Chuck Lesnick

June 13, 2008

Collins Cuts Ribbon at Ceremony
Education News From Albany
Council Supports County-Wide Reval
Monday Meeting: Save the Glenwood Power Station
New Fire Equipment
Watermelon Boats
Leafblower Ban is Now!!!
Spotlight on Yonkers
Public Meeting Notice
Relay For Life
Alexander Street Meeting
SAVE THE DATE

[Sign Up](#)[SIGN-UP!](#)[Quick Links](#)

After six weeks of intense budget hearings and fund negotiations which included holding two special meetings, the City Council finally approved an \$892.8 million spending plan by a 6-1 vote Tuesday night.

In this tough fiscal climate, we were lucky to approve a budget that lowered property taxes one percentage point less (7.5%) than proposed by Mayor Amicone (8.5%). We also put a hiring freeze in place on all nonessential jobs and eliminated dozens of positions from the Mayor's original spending plan. This includes \$900,000 in non-unionized management positions in 2008-09 and \$1.6 million in non-personnel related cuts.

Our budget allows for \$1.5 million more than originally proposed in the \$481.6 million set aside for school spending. Municipal expenses are \$411.2 million.

We were able to keep money in the fund balance, an important reserve, as economic uncertainty is affecting not

only our revenue projections, but also those of the state.

Collins Cuts Ribbon at Ceremony



Yesterday's ribbon-cutting ceremony at the new Hudson Park Apartments on 1 Alexander Street, Yonkers is just one example of Downtown development that was only made possible through the developer, [Collins Enterprises, LLC](#), receiving brownfields tax credits.

Brownfields are abandoned or under-used industrial and commercial facilities where expansion or

redevelopment is complicated by concentrations of environmental contaminants such as hazardous waste or pollution and has the potential to be reused once it is cleaned up.

Tax credits are given to developers willing to build on these sites as incentive for development in downtown areas as opposed to building on pristine open space such as farmland and other undeveloped properties.

There's no clearer example of how environmental protection and economic development can go hand in hand. Both are vital for the future well-being of our state and for us here in Yonkers.

There is one problem. In 2003, the state enacted a groundbreaking brownfields law. However, in the years since its implementation, some of its programs are encumbered by structural flaws that either restrain redevelopment or fund projects that do not represent the best use of limited tax dollars.

I am asking you to click [here](#) on the League of Conservation Voters website to tell Albany to "green up" its brownfields program to maintain this important ecological balance.

Education News From Albany



We had a very productive meeting in Albany last week talking with Deputy Secretary for Education Dr. Manuel Rivera (left) about the challenges facing Yonkers regarding the

education aid formula and our capital reimbursement rate.

Having worked as the superintendent of the Rochester City School District before entering state government, Dr. Rivera seems to understand the needs of a big city-dependent school district such as Yonkers.

He opened the meeting, attended by Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins, Senator Jeff Klein, Assemblyman Mike Spano, Yonkers Schools Superintendent Bernard Pierorazio, Deputy Mayor Bill Regan, Councilmember Pat McDow and me by declaring that the formula is negotiable and needs to be fixed.

He suggested the Yonkers approach the problem by working together with the other Big 4 dependent school districts (Rochester, Syracuse, Buffalo and Albany) on readdressing the formula. He recognized that Yonkers has high needs and that we have already trimmed our central administration budget.

Dr. Rivera further stated that the resolution Mayor Amicone proposed before the City Council last week was not only unnecessary but in fact could be counterproductive to the process. The Council Democrats intend to keep this resolution in committee as we work through the process with the state.

He pledged that Governor Paterson would start holding internal policy meetings this summer well in advance of his budget presentation scheduled for January, 2009.

We also spoke about a number of specific fixes for Yonkers including mixed use capital education funding bills that will positively impact the city.

There's more to come as we roll up our sleeves and hope to settle this once and for all.

Council Supports County-Wide Reval

The last time Yonkers did it was in 1954. Harrison did it last in 1938 and Mt. Vernon hasn't done it since the Civil War.

We're talking property tax revaluations--an issue I have been addressing and working on with the Westchester Municipal Officials Association and the Westchester County Association over the last year. And one that one that has been called into question since 1940 when Westchester County's Executive, William T. Bleakley, urged the County Board of Supervisors to undertake a county-wide assessment to balance the County's system of property valuation.

History repeated itself this year when the County announced wide-swinging property tax rates again this year. This time, Yonkers got hit with a 23.64% property tax increase whereas other municipalities such as Mt. Pleasant saw decreases in their tax bills.



While the places and the percentages change yearly, the fact remains the same. Westchester County has an unfair system-- and it needs to change.

In May, the Yonkers City Council voted unanimously to pass a [resolution](#) calling for a county-wide reassessment of all property. As the County's largest city, Yonkers hopes to take the lead on changing the system while addressing provisions for those with fixed incomes or incomes under a specific threshold.

We hope that other municipalities take our lead, urging their leaders to call on the County to update their tax rolls in fairness to all.

If you have any questions, please contact me by clicking on my email address [here](#).

Monday Meeting: Save the Glenwood Power Station



I urge everyone to attend a very important Townhall Meeting on the fate of the Glenwood/Yonkers Power Station at 7:00 p.m. **Monday, June 16** at the Nepperhan Community Center on 342 Warburton Ave., sponsored by the office of Councilwoman Patricia McDow.

As the father of two in Yonkers, I share the outrage and concern about alleged gang activity taking place at the vacant Glenwood Power Station.

Since then, we have been assured that new safety and security measures are in place by owner Ken Capolino; Commissioner of Buildings, John Meyer; and Police Commissioner Edmund Hartnett. This is good news for everyone.

Still, some in the community are demanding immediate destruction of the building, citing moral impasse. They have taken to calling the historical structure The Gates of Hell. Many more refer to it as the Gates of Hope, seeing endless possibilities for a developer to save the structure through adaptive reuse and turn it into something spectacular.

Demolishing the building will not solve the problem, it will only create new ones. Tearing it down will not only be a much more expensive process than rebuilding it, but will take longer to solve the problem of an empty eyesore. Additionally, it will wipe out a key part of Yonkers history, have a major impact on the environment and on Yonkers carbon footprint, and reduce our potential tax base and appeal.

When the [Preservation League of New York](#) recognized its historical significance in January by putting it on an emergency list of the Empire State's most threatened and endangered historic sites, called Seven to Save, people began to take more notice. Now that the building

is for sale again, several well-known developers have expressed interest in rebuilding the site.

It would not be the first time that a vacant power station, building or even a neighborhood has been turned around. Developer Bill Struever took on a similar restoration project in Baltimore, Maryland where he transformed an [historic power plant](#) into an incredible destination with office, retail and residential spaces, including a Barnes and Noble anchor store. This not only saved the City of Baltimore literally hundreds of thousands of dollars in tear down costs, but it also created hundreds of jobs and a cultural hub while preserving a piece of their city's historic past.

I envision something along those lines as the most effective and efficient way to deal with the building. Please join me in speaking out on this issue.

New Fire Equipment

The Yonkers Fire Department (YFD) received two new rigs this month including a state-of-the-art Mobile Command Center that coordinates inter-agency responses/communications efforts during large scale emergencies and a mobile "Fireblast" Training Simulator that places firefighters in "live burn" scenarios during training sessions.



While the YFD has the second-fastest response time rating among major

departments in the United States, Fire Commissioner Tony Pagano warned against inadequate communications systems that were one of the major problems encountered by emergency workers during 9/11.

The Mobile Command Center will help enable them to coordinate multi-agency, real time satellite responses to such emergencies as major fires, industrial disasters, weather events, or possible terrorist attacks.

No one likes to think of such disastrous scenarios, but in the event that something does happen, the more prepared we are, the better the outcome can be.

Photo: New rigs unveiled this month with Mayor Amicone, Commissioner Tony Pagano, and myself.

Watermelon Boats

The YWCA's 16th annual Celebrity Chefs Benefit, "Men Cooking Helping Build Strong



Leaders in our Youth" event was a great success this weekend!

This year, I chose to make a simple summer fruit salad with a somewhat dramatic presentation in a watermelon boat.

The YWCA does so much good in our community and this event is one way to help them achieve their goals. I encourage everyone who has never been to come next year--I am already looking forward to it.

My goal later in the day was to beat the heat by heading over to the Palisades Boat Club's opening day party which was also packed with people enjoying a leisurely Sunday with tons of great food.

It was heartening to see people swimming in the Hudson--a true testament to environmental awareness having a positive effect on aquatic life.

Leafblower Ban is Now!!!



We can all breathe easier again this summer now that the City Council unanimously approved Yonkers' gas-powered leaf blower ban which runs June 1 to September 30.

Yonkers joined a growing number of Westchester municipalities to enact leaf blower bans, including Rye, Greenburgh, Scarsdale, Dobbs Ferry, Hastings, and Mamaroneck.

This is good news for Westchester. There are so many health and environmental problems caused by leaf blowers, mainly because they are not held to the same standards as other gas-powered machines, such as cars, so they pollute like crazy. It's reported that they emit as much pollution in an hour as a car would if it drove 100 miles.

They also force harmful ground-level substances to become airborne. Pollen, feces and dust particles as well as particularly dangerous substances like lead, organic carbon, chromium, arsenic, cadmium, nickel and mercury which accumulate along street curbs are blown into the air where they are inhaled, causing health problems. It's also doubtful that anyone will miss the incessant, blaring noise that drowns out the sounds of summer.

Enjoy!

Spotlight on Yonkers



Tune into my new TV show, "Spotlight on Yonkers" on Channel 78.

The first show we did is about the leafblower ban and will air for the next two weeks at 9:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m., 5:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. Join me with special guests Jeff Byrne, St. John's Hospital Asthma Program Director; Yonkers parent, Gloria Mirrione; Richard Heller, landscape designer; and Molly Roffman, Green Policy Task Force member.

We are interested in hearing from you with show ideas and interests. Please contact laura.f.ahrenthold@yonkersny.gov

Public Meeting Notice

Residents and bus riders can learn more about Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) and its possibilities for the Central Avenue corridor by coming to an open house from 5:30 to 8 pm on Monday, June 16 at the Will Library in Yonkers.

The Westchester County Department of Transportation is conducting a study to determine

whether a high capacity rapid transit system could run along one of the county's major commercial strips extending from White Plains at the north end to Yonkers and the New York City subway in the Bronx.

For more information, contact Naomi Klein, Principal Planner, nk.k3@westchestergov.com or (914) 813-7758.

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Relay For Life



My office organized two "City Hall for a Cure" [Relay For Life](#) bake sale fundraisers that literally rolled in the dough.

Thanks to all who baked (and bought!), including Jannine Ferraiola, Debra Censi, Renee Milligan, Tara Renzi, Marie Neumayer, Antonia Laoutaris, Daisy Nunez, John Rubbo, Beth Lesnick and others, we raised \$856 in just eight short hours.

Photo: Interns Corey Koscielniak and Molly Crevey selling the goods.

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Alexander Street Meeting

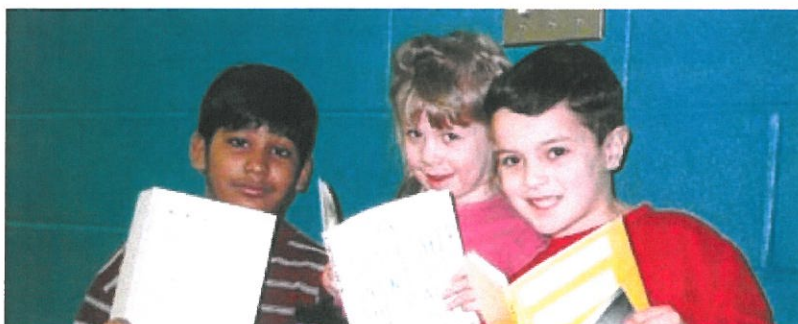


At 4 p.m. on June 25, in the Mayor's City Hall reception room, the Yonkers Community Development Agency will be holding a board meeting on the [Alexander Street Master Plan](#) featuring George Janes from the Environmental Simulation Center and Robert MacFarlane of Homes for America. MacFarlane will present his Point Street development plan to the board.

The meeting is open to the public. For more information, please contact [Daisy Colon](#).

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SAVE THE DATE



Book Fair: Yonkers Partners in Education (PIE) will be sponsoring a bookfair at Barnes & Noble on Central Ave. in Yonkers from June 19-22. School orchestras from Casimir Pulaski School and Family School 29 will play at 7:30 on

opening night. During the three day event, 25% of all book sales will go toward new books for their Family Literacy Campaign which will send new books home with Yonkers Public School children to read with their families to encourage literacy.

Fair Fun: The Ukranian Heritage Festival starts tonight and runs through June 15 at St. Michael's Ukrainian Catholic Church Corner of North Broadway and Shonnard Place in Yonkers. Come enjoy traditional dance performances and fabulous food.

Father's Day: Don't forget Dad on June 14th!

Volunteer for Autism: Sat. June 21 at Murray's Skating Center in Yonkers for volunteerfriday@frainapalooza, a day of live music, food, art, raffles and more to raise money for Autism.

[Read on...](#)

Written by Laura Fahrenthold

email: chuck.lesnick@yonkersny.gov

[Forward the update!](#)

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